



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF
LEARNING SERVICES

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Subject: Message #96: Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit

Date: December 2, 2015

To: ccss@list.state.ar.us

From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Educators,

The Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit (RARC) will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, in the El Dorado High School arena from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. RARC allows student in grades 3-12 to showcase their STEM skills by competing in hands-on challenges. The challenges serve a dual purpose: 1) introduce STEM concepts and their many applications, and 2) reinforce STEM fundamentals learned in the classroom.

The April competition will focus on a sumo challenge. Two self-controlled/autonomous robots are placed in a 36-inch ring. Each robot tries to avoid being pushed out of the ring by the opposing robot.

The competition is set up in a 'bracket style' format where individual robots compete head-to-head. Each match is comprised of three rounds and the first robot to win two rounds, wins the match and advances to the next level to face a new opponent. The robot that wins the final match wins the contest.

Teams can be divided into divisions by grade level - elementary (3-5), middle (6-8), and high school (9-12) - or by platform - LEGO Mindstorms and Parallax Boe-Bot. The length of the competition will be determined by the number of registered teams and the number of sumo rings. A four-hour timeframe (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) is estimated. Organizers can limit the number of teams on a first-come, first-serve basis or a cap on teams per school if necessary.

For more information, please contact Tom Simmons at tsimmons@esd-15.org or (870) 864-5167.

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

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